

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 101744Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3273
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT
SUBJ: MORO ENDS LOCKHEED DEBATE WITH POLITICAL WARNING TO
OTHER PARTIES

1. SUMMARY. AT THIS WRITING, RESULTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
VOTE ON THE FATE OF EX-MINISTERS GUI AND TANASSI ARE
EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE EVENING OF MARCH 10.
ON MARCH 9, THE FINAL DAY OF DEBATE, DC PRESIDENT
ALDO MORO AND PSDI PRESIDENT GIUSEPPE SARAGAT DEFENDED
THEIR ACCUSED PARTY COLLEAGUES IN MAJOR SPEECHES.
SARAGAT CONDUCTED A MEASURED AND DETAILED DEFENSE OF
TANASSI WHICH CARRIED WITH IT THE HIGH PRESTIGE ENJOYED
BY AN EX-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. MORO'S LENGTHY
DEFENSE OF THE INNOCENCE OF BOTH BUI (HIS CLOSE FRIEND
AND FACTIONAL COLLEAGUE) AND TANASSI WENT FURTHER BY
DEFINING THE ISSUE IN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY FORCEFUL
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TERMS AS THE INTEGRITY OF THE DC ITSELF. HE THEREFORE
SERVED A WARNING THAT AN ANTI-DC VOTE WILL JEOPARDIZE
FURTHER POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH THE LEFT PARTIES
AND POSSIBLY LEAD TO EARLY ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. MORO DEFENDED THE DC'S POLITICAL RECORD OVER THE
LAST 30 YEARS, NOTWITHSTANDING CERTAIN ERRORS, AS

HAVING PRESERVED ITALIAN DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES.HE SAID THE PARTY IS NOW CIRCLING ITS WAGONS NOT OUT OF FEAR OF CONFRONTING THE TRUTH BUT BECAUSE NOW IS A TIME THAT REQUIRES A FIRM "YES OR NO" TO THE ACCUSATIONS. HE THEN CONTINUED TO THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF HIS SPEECH AS FOLLOWS:
" THAT WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT ABOVE ALL IS THE BRANDING OF OUR ENTIRE EXPERIENCE WITH A MARK OF INFAMY. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY THERE ARE THAT ARE FOLLOWING SUCH A POLITICAL DESIGN, BUT I MUST FRANKLY SAY THAT IT REPRESENTS A PROSPECT CONTRARY TO A LINE OF DEMOCRATIC COLLABORATION. TO WHOMEVER WANTS TO HOLD A MORAL AND POLITICAL TRIAL, TO BE CELEBRATED IN THE STREETS AS IT HAS BEEN CYNICALLY SAID, WE RESPOND WITH THE FIRMEST REACTION AND WITH AN APPEAL TO PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH HAS NOT BRANDED US WITH THE HISTORICAL HUILT, JUST AS OUR ELECTORAL FORCE HAS NOT DIMINISHED. WE WON'T ACCEPT BEING CONSIDERED CORRUPT BECAUSE THAT IS NOT TRUE."

3. MORO'S REMARKS DOMINATED SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL COMMENTARY. HIS SPEECH HAS BEEN WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A CHALLENGE THROWN OUT TO THE DC'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS. OBVIOUSLY APPROPRIATING TO HIMSELF THE ROLE OF SUPREME PARTY LEADER, MORO PROJECTED THE IMAGE OF A STRONG, UNITED DC THAT IS READY TO CONFRONT THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES ON THE PLANE OF CIVIL POLITICAL DEBATE BUT ALSO NOT AFRAID TO MATCH STRENGTH WITH ITS OPPONENTS IN EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
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SHOULD THE RULES OF THE POLITICAL GAME BE VIOLATED.

4. REACTION FROM THE OTHER POLITICAL FORCES WAS ABUNDANT, WITH COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS MAKING THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PRONOUNCEMENTS. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PCI SECRETARIAT, DEPUTY NATTA DENOUNCED THE DC'S PRETENSION OF ASCRIBING A DOMINANT POSITION TO ITSELF, IGNORING THE "PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCE IN THE PARLIAMENT AND COUNTRY," JUST WHEN THE "NATIONAL SITUATION REQUIRES THE SEARCH FOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND EFFECTIVE SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITY." THE SOCIALISTS WERE LESS MEASURED, WITH PSI SECRETARY CRAXI IMMEDIATELY BRANDING THE DISCOURSE AS "A DANGEROUS SPEECH WHICH DIDN'T HELP THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND WHICH DELIBERATELY INCREASED THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE POLITICAL FORCES." A MARCH 10 EDITORIAL IN THE PSI NEWSPAPER AVANTI WENT EVEN FURTHER, SAYING " THE AFFIRMATION THAT THE DC

DOESN'T INTEND TO RENOUNCE ITS HEGEMONY AND PROCLAIMS THE INACCEPTABILITY OF CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE GLOBAL PROPOSALS JUST IN A MOMENT IN WHICH MORO SPEAKS OF A SITUATION IN WHICH NOT ONLY THE SOCIAL FABRIC IS LACERATED BUT IN WHICH ALSO THE INSTITUTIONS ARE IN DISEQUILIBRIUM, UNCOORDINATED AND OFTEN IMPOTENT, MAKES US FEEL THE CHILL OF A COLD WIND OF THE CHILEAN TYPE."

5. COMMENT: ONE NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THE ONLY TWO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS NOT TO APPLAUD MORO'S SPEECH WERE PM ANDREOTTI AND INQUIRY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MARTINAZZOLI. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT MORO'S CHALLENGE TO THE LEFT PARTIES WILL MAKE THE EXISTENCE OF ANDREOTTI'S MINORITY GOVERNMENT, BASED ON A MINIMUM OF COOPERATION BY THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS, MORE DIFFICULT. IN ADDITION, IT IS CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT MORO FORCEFULLY REASSERTED HIS CLAIM TO BE THE PRE-EMINENT DC LEADER. AS PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTS HAVE NOTED, THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE LOCKHEED QUESTION WAS RATHER ROUTINE AND UNEVENTFUL. ONLY THE FAR LEFT AND THE RADICALS SEEMED PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH TRYING THE DC'S POLITICAL PAST. THUS, IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT MORO'S SPEECH WENT BEYOND THE LIMITS DICTATED BY THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE SITUATION. IF MORO EXCEEDED THOSE LIMITS, HE DID SO INTENTIONALLY, PROBABLY TO SERVE A POLITICAL WARNING TO ALL THAT AN ANTI-DC VOTE WILL EXACERBATE FUTURE POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DC AND THE LEFT PARTIES. BEAUDRY

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